

ABSTRACT

PVA binder fibers having the following characteristics: a cross-section circularity of at most 30 %, a degree of swelling in water at 30°C of at least 100 %, and a degree of dissolution in water of at most 20 %, are capable of being processed even under low-energy drying condition, for example, in high-speed drying in a hot air drying system (e.g., air-through drier) or in low-temperature drying in a multi-cylinder system or the like to give paper and nonwoven fabrics of high strength.